

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-16-02

Issued at: Sitka, Friday  
June 21, 2002

Effective 12:01 A.M. Tuesday  
Date: June 25, 2002

Expiration Date: 11:59 P.M. Tuesday,  
December 31, 2002. Unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order decreases the bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon 16 inches or greater to 3 fish per day and 6 in possession in the Salmon Lake drainage on Baranof Island and the Hoktaheen Lake drainage on Yakobi Island, and in saltwater areas within a 500-yard radius of the outlet streams to these systems and to the Gut Bay Lake and Falls Lake systems on Baranof Island.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 47.022 (162) are superseded and 5 AAC 47.022 (204) and (205) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective:

### 5 AAC 47.022. WATERS; SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

(1) 5 AAC 47.022 WATER	SEASON AND BAG LIMIT						SPECIAL PROVISIONS
	King Salmon	Other Salmon	Trout/ Steelhead	Dolly Varden	Halibut/ Lingcod	Other Fish/Shell fish	
(162) Salmon Lake drainage	Closed	1D <sup>1</sup>	1M, 1R	1I		1S	<sup>1</sup> The bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon is 3 fish per day and 6 in possession.
(204) Hoktaheen Lake drainage	Closed	1D <sup>1</sup>	1L, 1R	1I		1S	<sup>1</sup> The bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon is 3 fish per day and 6 in possession.
(205) Saltwater areas within a 500-yard radius of the outlet stream to Falls Lake, Gut Bay Lake, Salmon Lake, and Hoktaheen Lake.	1A	1D <sup>1</sup>	1L, 1R	1I	3J, 4K	1S, 1T	<sup>1</sup> The bag and possession limit for sockeye salmon is 3 fish per day and 6 in possession.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Sockeye salmon harvests have increased at Falls Lake, Salmon Lake, Gut Bay Lake, and Hoktaheen Lake systems. At Falls Lake, for example, annual subsistence harvests increased from an average of 160 (1985-1989) to 1,050 sockeye (1995-2001). Subsistence harvests at Salmon, Gut Bay, and Hoktaheen Lakes follow similar trends and sport harvests, while small in comparison, are known to occur at these sites. If these trends continue, increasing harvests may put the Falls, Salmon, Gut Bay, and Hoktaheen Lake stocks at risk.

In response to increasing harvest trends, department staff restricted subsistence and sport fisheries each year beginning in 1999 as a precautionary measure. In 2001, the Federal Subsistence Board closed the Falls Lake and Gut Bay drainages to non-Federally qualified users.

In 2001, sockeye stock assessment programs began at Falls and Salmon Lakes to provide information necessary to assess the stock status and current regulations. Information from these studies indicates sport harvests are small in comparison to the subsistence fishery and subsistence harvest continues to increase. In light of increased harvest trends, reduced sport fishing bag and possession limits are necessary at these four systems and will continue until the status of these sockeye stocks can be assessed. Falls Lake and Gut Bay Lake freshwater systems are not included in this emergency order because they are closed to non-Federal use by Federal regulation.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Sitka Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 304 Lake St. Room 103, Sitka, AK 99835, (907) 747-5355.